

Decision Record for a Categorically Excluded Action

Introduction and Background

Ford Performance Group has applied for a land use permit (LUP) within the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) West Mesa Routes of Travel, Plaster City and Superstition Mountain open OHV surveyed routes (see attached maps).

The applicant proposes to utilize the land in support of the 2017 Ford Raptor off-road durability test. Trained Development Engineers and a Navigator will pilot a specially equipped vehicle over the identified routes, completing up to 5 passes per day. Then a similar vehicle equipped with a number of instruments will conduct one pass over segments of the route to collect related data for later investigation.

The route will be controlled by safety spotters at each end of a given route and supplemental spotters along the route all in radio contact with the test vehicle at all times. Speeds for any evaluation are defined by what a Raptor customer would be expected to attain during normal, non-destructive use of the vehicle.

Medical response personnel will be on hand at all times to provide immediate medical care and implement the provided medical response plan if required. All support vehicles are equipped with safety response equipment including fire suppression (dry chemical and foam), tow straps and tools.

The test vehicles will be equipped with roll bars, 5-point safety harnesses, and fire suppression systems. Drivers wear full face helmets and head and neck restraints during all testing

Decision and Rationale

It is my decision to approve the proposed action as described in Categorical Exclusion (CX) number DOI-BLM-CA-D070-2016-0022-CX. I find this action conforms to BLM (516 DM 11.9) Categorical Exclusions with no exceptions. I further find this action in conformance with applicable land use plans, laws and regulations and that it will not cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Policies and Land Use Plans

This action conforms to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980, as amended because it is specifically provided for or is clearly consistent with the Resource Management Plan (RMP) objectives and decisions as follows:

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions:

LUP Name: California Desert Conservation Area

Date Approved: 1980

Other Documents: Western Colorado (WECO) OHV Routes of Travel Designation Plan Approved: 2003

The Plaster City OHV Area and Superstition OHV Open Area are classified as Multiple-Use Class I which is an "Intensive use" class. Its purpose is to provide for concentrated use of lands and resources to meet human needs. Reasonable protection will be provided for sensitive natural and cultural values. Mitigation of impacts on resources and rehabilitation of impacted areas will occur insofar as possible.

Administrative Remedies

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S.

Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs

must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, E-1712, Sacramento, CA 95825.

//Signed//

Thomas F. Zale
Field Manager

12/21/2015

Date